

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO VIA WUD CHG AID ACC GWA078230

NORMAN W ODELL

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

AKRON OHIO

UNCLAS STATE 035253

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN  
EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA ETHIOPIA ON FEB 11:

SUBJECT: NON-USAID FINANCED PARTICIPANTS: JACOB AND IASU TESFAY

REF: A. ODELL LETTER TO EDUCATIONAL ATTACHE, DATED 11/14/75

B. ODELL LETTER TO EDUCATIONAL ATTACHE, DATED 1/19/76

1. FYI REF (A) WAS DATED NOV 14, 1975 RECEIVED BY USAID DECEMBER  
1, 1975. LETTER INDICATED THAT TWO BROTHERS CITED IN SUBJECT  
ABOVE, HAD NOT RECEIVED FUNDS FROM PARENTS IN ASMARA SINCE  
EARLY 1975, TO PAY FOR THEIR STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY OF AKRON.  
ODELL WROTE TO ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY SEVERAL TIMES SEEKING INFORMATION  
ON WHETHER OR NOT ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES WERE PRESENTLY ALLOWING  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM ETHIOPIA TO THE US. EDUCATIONAL ATTACHE,  
REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NO RESTRICTIONS BUT CERTAIN INFORMATION  
FROM UNIVERSITY WOULD BE REQUIRED. ODELL SUPPLIED INFORMATION AND  
INDICATED \$1,967.50 WAS REQUIRED. ONLY \$400.00 WAS ACTUALLY  
RECEIVED.

ODELL WROTE MISSION TO INDICATE PROBLEM REQUESTED EDUCATION OFFICER  
CONTACT AMERICAN CONSUL IN ASMARA TO DETERMINE IF FAMILY COULD

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MANAGE TO TRANSFER REQUIRED FUNDS TO THEIR SONS. NAME AND

ADDRESS OF FATHER, ATO TEFAY TECLEMARIAM, WAS GIVEN IN ODELL'S LETTER, END FYI.

2. ON DEC 2 MISSION EDUCATION OFFICER TELEPHONED CONSULATE IN ASMARA AND RELAYED CONTENTS OF REF.(A). DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OFFICER OF CONSULATE INDICATED HE THOUGHT HE KNEW FATHER OF THE BROTHERS, AND THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE IMPRISONED. CONVERSATION ENDED WITH CONSULATE REQUEST THAT MISSION SEND REF. (A) TO CONSULATE, AND THAT CONSULATE WOULD ANSWER ODELL DIRECTLY.

3. ON DEC 3, 1975, MISSION EDUCATION OFFICER ACKNOWLEDGED TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AND SENT COPY OF REF. (A) AS REQUESTED.

4. ON JAN 27, 1976, MISSION RECEIVED REF. (B) ASKING MISSION EDUCATION OFFICER TO CONSULT WITH AMERICAN CONSUL IN ASMARA TO DETERMINE IF PARENTS OF JACOB AND IASU TEFAY WERE IN POSITION TO FORWARD FUNDS. LETTER EXPRESSED ANXIOUS TONE SINCE IF FUNDS COULD NOT BE SENT BY PARENTS, BROTHERS WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE TO ASK FOR SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FROM US IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE OR EVEN REQUEST REFUGEE STATUS.

5. UPON RECEIPT THIS LETTER ON JANUARY 27, MISSION TRIED TELEPHONE CONSULATE IN ASMARA ONLY TO LEARN TELEPHONE SYSTEM WAS NOT OPERATIVE BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO TELEPHONE-LINES. ON JAN 28 EDUCATION OFFICER SPOKE WITH CONSUL WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN ADDIS AND GAVE HIM SUMMARY OF CONTENTS REF.(B). COPY OF LATTER REF. ALONG WITH ODELL'S NOV 17 LETTER WAS SENT TO HIM. CONSUL, ALTHOUGH EXTREMELY BUSY AND HARD PRESSED, INDICATED HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE, AND DEPARTED FOR ASMARA.

6. MISSION NOT IN A POSITION TO DO MUCH MORE BUT AWAIT REPLY FROM CONSULATE. WOULD APPRECIATE CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE PASSED TO ODELL.

RELAY OFFICER FOR USAID ADDIS ABABA  
C/O AMEMBASSY

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